Statement

Water Quality Data for River Ganga
(Summer Average *i.e.* March-June)

Sl.No.	Station/Location	1986		2007	
		DO (mg/l)	BOD (mg/l)	DO (mg/l)	BOD (mg/l)
1.	Rishikesh	8.1	1.7	8.20	1.20
2.	Hardwar D/s	8.1	1.8	8.10	1.30
3.	Garhmukteshwar	7.8	2.2	7.90	2.0
4.	Kannauj U/S	7.2	5.5	6.80	1.77
5.	Kannauj D/S	NA	NA	6.40	4.10
6.	Kanpur U/S	7.2	7.2	5.80	2.90
7.	Kanpur D/S	6.7	8.6	4.60	5.20
8.	Allahabad U/S	6.4	11.4	7.97	7.50
9.	Allahabad D/S	6.6	15.5	8.83	4.13
10.	Varanasi U/S	5.6	10.1	8.06	2.34
11.	Varanasi D/S	5.9	10.6	8.36	3.69
12.	Patna U/S	8.4	2.0	7.1	1.68
13.	Patna D/S	8.1	2.2	6.9	1.83
14.	Rajmahal	7.8	1.8	7.42	1.63
15.	Palta	NA	NA	6.92	2.63
16.	Uluberia	NA	NA	6.80	3.21

Prescribed standards for Bathing Water Quality: DO equal to or more than 5.0 mg/l
BOD equal to or less than 3.0 mg/l

Death of tigers in Jim Corbett Park

2220. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five tigers died in Jim Corbett Park during the last quarter of 2007;

(b) if so, details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) the number of tigers now in the Park; and

(d) special steps taken to protect the existing tigers in the Park?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) As reported by the State, tigers deaths have been reported on 22.9.2007, 31.10.2007 and 31.10.2007/1.11.2007 in the Corbett Tiger Reserve of Uttarakhand.

(b) Based on recent All India estimation of tiger using the refined methodology, the population of tiger in Uttarakhand including Corbett Tiger Reserve is 178 (mid value), the lower and upper limits being 161 and 195 respectively.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to protect tigers are given in the Statement.

Statement

The steps taken by the Government to protect wild animals including tiger are as below:—

Legal steps

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau. The punishment in cases of offence within a tiger reserve has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.

Administrative steps

2. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel/home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication/wireless facilities.

3. 100% Central Assistance provided to 17 Tiger Reserves as an additionality for deployment of Tiger Protection Force, comprising of ex-army personnel and local workforce.

4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, *inter-alia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual/audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.

5. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 comprising of officers from Police, Forest, Customs and other enforcement agencies to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.

6. Approval accorded for declaring eight new Tiger Reserves.

7. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, *inter-alia*, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in crore or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakhs/family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting and mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.

8. A scientific methodology for estimating tiger (including copredators, prey animals and assessment of habitat status) has been evolved and mainstreamed. The findings of this estimation/assessment are bench marks for future tiger conservation strategy.

9. Around 31111 sq.km. of critical/core tiger habitat identified in 17 States.

10. Memorandum of Understanding developed for better/concerted implementation of conservation inputs through tiger reserve States.

Financial steps

11. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

12. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.

13. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

14. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, with directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted as a decision with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

Death of tigers in Zoological Parks

2221. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether some tigers were found killed or dead in other Zoological parks of the country during last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and causes of their death;

(c) the other wildlife animals facing extinction; and

(d) the steps being taken to prevent extinction of tigers and other species from India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In different Zoological Parks of the country, a total of 16 Royal Bengal Tigers have died from 01.04.2007 to 13.03.2008. The details along with cause of their death are given in the statement (*See* below).